miles of metalled roads, 80 miles of village roads and 7 miles of canals in the Parur taluk. As regards revenue, the average annual income from the Arukutti Chowkey alone amounted to Rs. 10 lakhs. While urging the need for improving the means of communication in his taluk, the member wanted to express the gratitude of the people of the taluk towards the Government for opening the Shertallai-Arur road.

Lastly, the member suggested that the following changes be made in the constitution and working of the Road Boards:—

(i) The Road Boards and the Irrigation Boards be amalgamated.
(ii) The proceedings of the Road Boards be conducted strictly in accordance with the rules for the same.
(iii) The works recommended by the Road Boards be promptly executed.
(iv) The decisions of the Central Board be communicated to the members of the District Boards.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kochupillai Kaimal, I shall be very glad to convey to His Highness the sentiments of loyalty to which you have given expression.

Your suggestions for the improvement of the Public Works Department will be communicated to the Chief Engineer, and, if any specific cases of hardship or grievance are brought to notice they will be enquired into, and, if possible, remedied.

The present procedure is to distribute the budget allotment throughout the State, as far as possible, in accordance with the importance and urgency of the works. At the same time, an attempt is made to give more money to those taluks which are backward both in irrigation and in communications.

I do not think it will be possible or workable to make the Public Works Department responsible to the Central Road Board, nor will it be possible to amalgamate the Road Boards with the Irrigation Boards. Their functions are quite different.

I am told that the proceedings of the Road Boards are conducted in accordance with the rules, and that the works recommended by them are executed as soon as possible as funds permit.

The decisions of the Central Board will be communicated, in future, to the District Boards.

55. Public Health with special reference to the Tuckalai Hospital.

MR. K. M. KESAVAN TAMPI (*Kalkulam taluk, Group I*) said that the two essential requisites for the maintenance of public health were firstly, the grant of necessary medical aid after proper diagnosis of the diseases and secondly, the preventi on of diseases by the timely carrying out of preventive measures. The first of these functions was entrusted to the Government medical institutions in the State. But the administration of these institutions was far from satisfactory. The condition of the Government hospitals and dispensaries had become

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worse with the establishment of the Administrative Board, Medical Services. Most of the Government hospitals served only as a source of income to the Medical Officers in charge of them. In these institutions, which were intended to give free medical aid to the poor, medicine could be had only on payment of money. The questionable character of the Medical Officers in charge of some of these institutions made it undesirable for respectable women to resort to the institutions for medical aid. In short, the public were losing confidence in these institutions. The fact that many people including high Government officials resorted to the Mission Hospital at Neyyur showed the lack of confidence of the public in Government medical institutions.

With reference to the second essential requisite, *viz.*, adoption of preventive measures, it was true that the attention of the Government had been drawn to this important question, as would be seen from the starting of Health Units in some taluks. But under the arrangement in force it would take a large number of years for the establishment of Health Units in all the taluks. Health Unit work should be immediately started at least in such of the taluks as were subjected to epidemics or were the seat of malaria and other chronic diseases. The department which was responsible to adopt preventive measures was the Sanitary Department. But the people did not derive any material benefit by the existence of that department.

Paucity of good drinking water was one of the main causes for the outbreak of diseases. In south Travancore there were many places where there was great scarcity of drinking water. This was one of the chief causes for the outbreak of cholera in an epidemic form in south Travancore during 1104. Though the urgency of the matter had been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Government by the representatives of the people, nothing was done to alleviate the distress of the people in the matter.

The general health of the student population of the State was not satisfactory. The Government should bestow their serious attention on this question and arrangements should be made for imparting instruction to students in principles of health and hygiene. The presence of young men with training in medicine in each of the villages would be a source of great help to the Government in carrying on public health propaganda. It would be desirable to establish a medical school at Trivandrum where training in medicine should be imparted at a cheap cost.

The Government had stopped the medical inspection of high school students as a retrenchment measure. This was not a wise step. The practice of conducting medical inspection of students should be revised and the work should be transferred from the Medical to the Public Health Department in the interests of the health of the students.

The rules in force regarding the segregation of lepers were not effective, inasmuch as action could be taken under the rules only in the case of patients who had developed ulcers, with the result that the

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leper patients, in the early stages of their disease, freely mingled with other people and spread the disease. Necessary rules should be framed for preventing such a state of affairs and leper asylums established in places where leprosy was prevalent in order to afford facilities for the treatment of the disease. Tuberculosis was also on the increase in the State. A tuberculosis sanatorium should be established at an early date in order to afford relief to the numerous patients who fell victims to the disease, being unable to get relief from the institution at Madanapalli.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Kesavan Tampi, Government will be only too glad to enquire into any complaints against the system, or against the members of the Medical or the Sanitary Department if specific cases are brought to notice. Government, of course, will be glad also to receive any suggestions which are well thought out for improving either of these Departments. The Health Unit has only recently been started, and it is hoped that it will develop and do a lot of good to the people.

The evils of tuberculosis and leprosy have been recognised by the State, and as funds permit, Government will do their best to deal with them.

56. Need for educational reconstruction.

MR. T. A. THOMAS (*Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) prefaced his representation by a criticism of the present system of education and emphasised the necessity for changing the educational organisation in the State.

Among the many reforms that might be usefully introduced, the member suggested the desirability of starting a school of technology of a high school grade, in a central place in Travancore. Along with the ordinary general education, such subjects as dentistry, plumbing, electrical engineering, photography, painting, journalism, commercial correspondence, mechanical engineering, Ayurveda, banking, co-operation, automobile engineering, conveyancing, agriculture, forestry diary farming and animal husbandry should be taught as optional subjects from the Fourth Form upwards, on a practical system.

Another suggestion was that the method of teaching English should be improved and that vernacular education should be placed on a higher pedestal to enable secondary education being given in the vernacular in course of time. English should be taught as a compulsory subject so that a working knowledge of that language might be acquired. In regard to the method of teaching English, the reading method of Dr. West based on his New Method Readers was said to be the best and the same should be tried.

The Government should encourage translations and, if possible, a Translation Board, like the one in the Osmania University, should be appointed.

Rural schools should have separate curricula of studies suitable to the life and environments of the village folk, with special provision for

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